

Message Text

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73

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01

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R 011702Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5691

INFO CINCLANT

COMICEDEFOR

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR IC SP

SUBJECT: GOI "REGRETS" RECENT EVENTS IN SPAIN

1. GOI TOOK RARE STEP YESTERDAY OF EXPRESSING OFFICIAL REGRET OVER RECENT EVENTS IN SPAIN. TEXT OF CABINET STATEMENT AS FOLLOWS:
"THE GOVERNMENT REGRETS THE EVENTS WHICH HAVE OCCURRED IN SPAIN AND CONDEMNNS DICTATORSHIPS, TYRANNY, AND EXECUTIONS EVERYWHERE IN THE WORLD. THE CONDUCT OF THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT IS A SERIOUS BLOW TO EFFORTS TO PROMOTE HUMANITY IN THE WORLD."

2. THOUGH SOMEWHAT EQUIVOCAL, STATEMENT IS UNUSUAL, SINCE GOI RARELY VOLUNTEERS COMMENT ON INTERNATIONAL EVENTS NOT DIRECTLY INVOLVING ICELAND. MFA OFFICIAL TOLD EMBOFF THAT CABINET HAD FELT OBLIGED TO SAY SOMETHING IN VIEW OF EXTENT OF STRONG PROTEST ELSEWHERE AS WELL AS CONSIDERABLE NEGATIVE REACTION AMONG ICELANDERS. ON OTHER HAND, HE SAID, GOVERNMENT HAD TO WEIGH IMPORTANCE OF
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SPANISH SALTED FISH MARKET TO ICELANDIC ECONOMY IN FORMULATING

GOI PROTEST.

3. LOCALLY, PROTESTS HAVE BEEN LOW-KEY BY MOST STANDARDS.
THERE WAS SMALL RALLY SEPTEMBER 27, AND THERE HAVE BEEN SCATTERED
EXPRESSIONS OF SUPPORT FOR BOYCOTTS OF SPANISH GOODS, HOLIDAYS,
ETC. COMMUNIST DOMINATED PRESS HAS BEEN LEADING VOICE OF PROTEST,
CONDEMNING SPANISH GOVERNMENT AND CRITICIZING US FOR SUPPORTING
GOS, AND GOI FOR ITS PREVIOUS SILENCE IN MATTER.
MARTIN

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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